Organisations representing interests of small scale sector

2030. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names and addresses of the organisations which have been recognised by the Industry as National Apex bodies representing the interests of small scale sector;

(b) the organisations representing exclusively the interest of Khadi, village, tiny and small scale industries and also those which are representing the interests of large, medium, tiny and small scale sector; and

(c) the year of establishment of the apex bodies exclusively representing the interests of small scale industries in Khadi, village and small scale?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. J. KURIEN): (a) to (c) There is no procedure or any policy guidelines regarding recognising any industry/association as an apex body. There are quite a number of associations which represent different categories of industries and sometimes representing large, medium as well as small scale industries. It is, therefore, difficult to say that any particular organisation is a national apex body representing the interests of the small scale.

Dharna Staged by Khadi Gramodhyog Sewa Karmi Association, India

2031. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Khadi Gramodhyog Sewa Karmi Association, India had recently staged Dharna/Satyagraha at the Boat Club in New Delhi demanding early release and implementation of the Sodhia Committee Report on the wages and working conditions of Khadi workers of Khadi Ashram etc.;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to release and implement the recommendations of the said Committee; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. J. KURIEN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government is examining the recommendations of the Sodhia Committee to take a final decision on its implementation.

Disinvestment of Shares of PSU(s)

2032. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is Government's policy regarding the disinvestment of shares of PSU's;

(b) what are the reasons for selling shares of PSU's only through mutual funds; and

(c) what are the reasons for not selling shares of PSU's through market forces?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) Government's policy regarding the disinvestment of shares of PSU's has been clearly announced in the Industrial Policy Statement of 1991 and the Budget Speech for 1991-92, which *inter alia*, says that in order to raise resources, encourage wider public participation and promote greater accountability, a part of the Government's share holding in selected public sector undertakings would be offered to mutual funds and investment institutions in the public sector, as also to workers.

(b) and (c) The first phase of the disinvestment process carried out in 1991-92 was to be smooth, non-controversial and also fair to the exchequer as well as to the investor.

A public offer of shares, on a company-by-company basis, was not considered in order to avoid the risk of underpricing or over-pricing since most of the public sector companies were largely unfamiliar to the investment market. In addition, such a large scale sale of public sector shares would have adversely affected the share prices of the existing companies. It was, thus, decided to off-load the shares to the mutual funds and institutional investors so as to act as a buffer between the Government and the stock market. The institutions would gradually off-load these shares into the open market so as to finally ensure a wider holding of the ownership of these shares.

Order Book position of BHEL unit at Tiruchirapalli

2033. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what was the order book position of the Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. in Tiruchirapalli as on April 1, 1991 and April 1, 1992;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a grim position for the orders during the year 1993-94;

(c) what are the details thereof; and the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps Government have so far taken to improve the position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) The order book position of BHEL's High Pressure Boiler Plant at Tiruchirapalli is given below:

As on 1-4-91—220,000 Metric tonnes approx.

As on 1-4-92—120,000 Metric tonnes approx.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Based on project requirements, the equipment to be delivered during 1993-94 would total to only 17700 MT approx. which would utilise the manufacturing capacity to the extent of 11 per cent approx. The reason for unsatisfactory order book is the fund constraint with utilities.

(d) BHEL is taking following steps to improve the position:

(i) Mopping up business from existing power stations through supply of spares, renovation and modernisation of old equipment.

(ii) Greater thrust on exports by focussing on specific potential areas.

(iii) Marketing drive to obtain balance orders of VIII and IX Plans for steam generating equipment.

Selling of Public Sector Equity at throw away prices

2034. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether millions of rupees will be lost in disinvesting Public Sector equity by selling shares at throw away prices;

(b) if so, the names of public Enterprises disinvesting upto 59 per cent equity in favour of foreign/domestic investors; and

(c) the amount of money that is likely to be raised by off loading Public Sector equity and where these funds are proposed to be utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) No, Sir. Since the shares were not sold at throw away prices. In fact the price reduction was more than three times the face value of shares on the average.

(b) In none of the public enterprise. Government have so far disinvested upto 49 per cent equity in favour of foreign/domestic investors.